RESOURCE SHARING AND NETWORKING IN UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES: A STUDY

Dr. Digambar Ambadas Hemke
Librarian
Usha Mittal Institute of Technology, SNDT Women's University, Mumbai Maharashtra, India
Email - digamber.hemke@gmail.com

Mr. Dnyaneshwar Ratan Aher
Librarian
PES Modern College of Pharmacy Moshi, Pune
Email - aherdny@gmail.com

Abstract : This study examines the importance of resource sharing and networking in university libraries to improve access to academic resources and enhance efficiency. University libraries often face challenges such as limited budgets, outdated infrastructure, and restricted access to specialized materials. Resource-sharing and networking provide effective solutions by allowing libraries to collaborate, share resources, and exchange expertise. The study investigates the current practices in resource sharing, identifies the benefits and challenges of library networks, and evaluates the role of digital technology in improving these processes. Data collected from surveys and interviews with library professionals offer insights into the strength and weaknesses of existing systems while suggesting areas for development. The findings highlight the need for clear policies, better ICT infrastructure, and institutional support to build sustainable resource-sharing systems. This research offers practical recommendations to strengthen collaboration and enhance resource sharing in university libraries for better academic support.

Keywords : Resource Sharing, University Libraries, Resources, Library Networking.

Introduction :

University libraries are essential for supporting academic and research activities by providing access to a wide range of resources. However, they face challenges such as limited budgets, rising costs of information resources, and the need to keep up with technological changes. These challenges make it difficult for individual libraries to meet the increasing demands of their users. To overcome these issues, resource sharing and networking have become effective solutions, enabling libraries to work together and make better use of their resources. Resource sharing allows libraries to exchange materials, services, and knowledge, helping them improve their collections and services collectively. Networking, on the other hand, creates connections between libraries through agreements or online platforms, fostering collaboration. These approaches reduce duplication of resources and provide access to specialized materials that may not be available in individual libraries. Advancements in information and communication technology (ICT) have further supported resource sharing and networking. Tools like digital library

Volume - 5 (2025)
Issue - 1 (December)

LIBRARY SCHOLAR
International Peer-Reviewed Journal of Library Science

ISSN
2583-2549

networks, interlibrary loans, and shared databases enable seamless collaboration and easier access to resources. However, these advancements also bring challenges, such as maintaining ICT infrastructure, standardizing operations, and addressing copyright concerns.

This study explores the current practices of resource sharing and networking in university libraries, focusing on their advantages, challenges, and the role of technology in improving these efforts. the research aims to promote collaboration and improve access to resources in academic libraries.

Review of Literature :

- **Ramavath & Rao (2022)** In his study Resource sharing in medical college libraries is increasingly essential and widely recognized globally. Studies highlight varying levels of ICT infrastructure, with DCMS College having 24.90% of the necessary facilities and MRIMS College at 21.90%. Library management software plays a key role, with 60% of colleges using NewGenLib and 40% using Koha. Notably, all surveyed medical colleges (100%) expressed their willingness to participate in resource-sharing and networking programs, emphasizing the growing importance of collaboration to improve access and optimize resources.

- **Chaithra & Adhinarayanan (2018)** this study investigates resource sharing in university libraries in Karnataka, focusing on challenges and practices, including interlibrary loans (ILL). Data from 54 libraries were collected via surveys and interviews and analyzed statistically. The findings highlight the role of resource sharing in addressing space, manpower, and financial constraints, alongside the impact of information technology on library modernization. The study outlines methods, tools, and findings to improve resource-sharing frameworks.

- **Kumbhar, A. (2018)** this paper highlights the significance of resource sharing and networking systems in streamlining daily library operations. In the era of ICT, the role of computers has transformed every aspect of daily life, including libraries. Libraries are also impacted by the rapid growth of information across all fields of study. However, no single library can afford the space or financial resources to store and manage all available information. Resource sharing and networking have thus become vital strategies to address these challenges, enabling libraries to optimize their resources and improve access to information.

- **Kalbande, Dattatraya T. (2018)** this study evaluates the networking and resource-sharing practices of agricultural college libraries under Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth. The findings reveal that most librarians support sharing print and electronic resources, as well as collaborating on academic activities. Additionally, librarians prefer web-based methods such as email and fax for resource sharing, highlighting the importance of digital tools in facilitating efficient collaboration.

Volume - 5 (2025)
Issue - 1 (December)

LIBRARY SCHOLAR
International Peer-Reviewed Journal of Library Science

ISSN
2583-2549

- **Hanumanth Reddy A. (2016)** In his study highlighting the need for effective networking systems in Indian school and college libraries. The internet enables global connectivity, offering the potential to unify libraries worldwide. For Indian educational institutions, resource sharing enhances user satisfaction and optimizes national resources. Professional and systematic implementation can improve information access and resource management across libraries.

- **Das, Manas (2018)** this study evaluates the Resource sharing entails collaborative efforts among libraries, significantly boosted by advancements in IT and ICT. These technologies have revolutionized libraries, enabling shared acquisition and digital services. Budget limitations and growing information demands have increased library interdependence, driving cooperation and networking. The consortia model has become a pivotal strategy for fostering collaboration. Developing digital resources is essential for optimizing the use and sharing of library information effectively.

Objectives of the study :

1. To explore the opinions of librarians on networking and resource sharing.
2. To assess the willingness of librarians to share print resources.
3. To evaluate the willingness of librarians to share electronic resources.
4. To examine the willingness of librarians to collaborate on academic activities.
5. To identify the methods utilized for resource sharing.

Methodology :

This study targeted Librarian from nine universities in Maharashtra. Using the Krejcie and Morgan (1970) table, a sample of 675 questionnaires was distributed, with 75 allocated to each university. A total of 464 responses were received, yielding a 68.74% response rate. The data, primarily from research scholars and postgraduate students, were analyzed to examine resource sharing and networking practices in university libraries.

Data Analysis & Interpretation :

Table No. 5.1 Opinion on Resource Sharing & Networking Programme

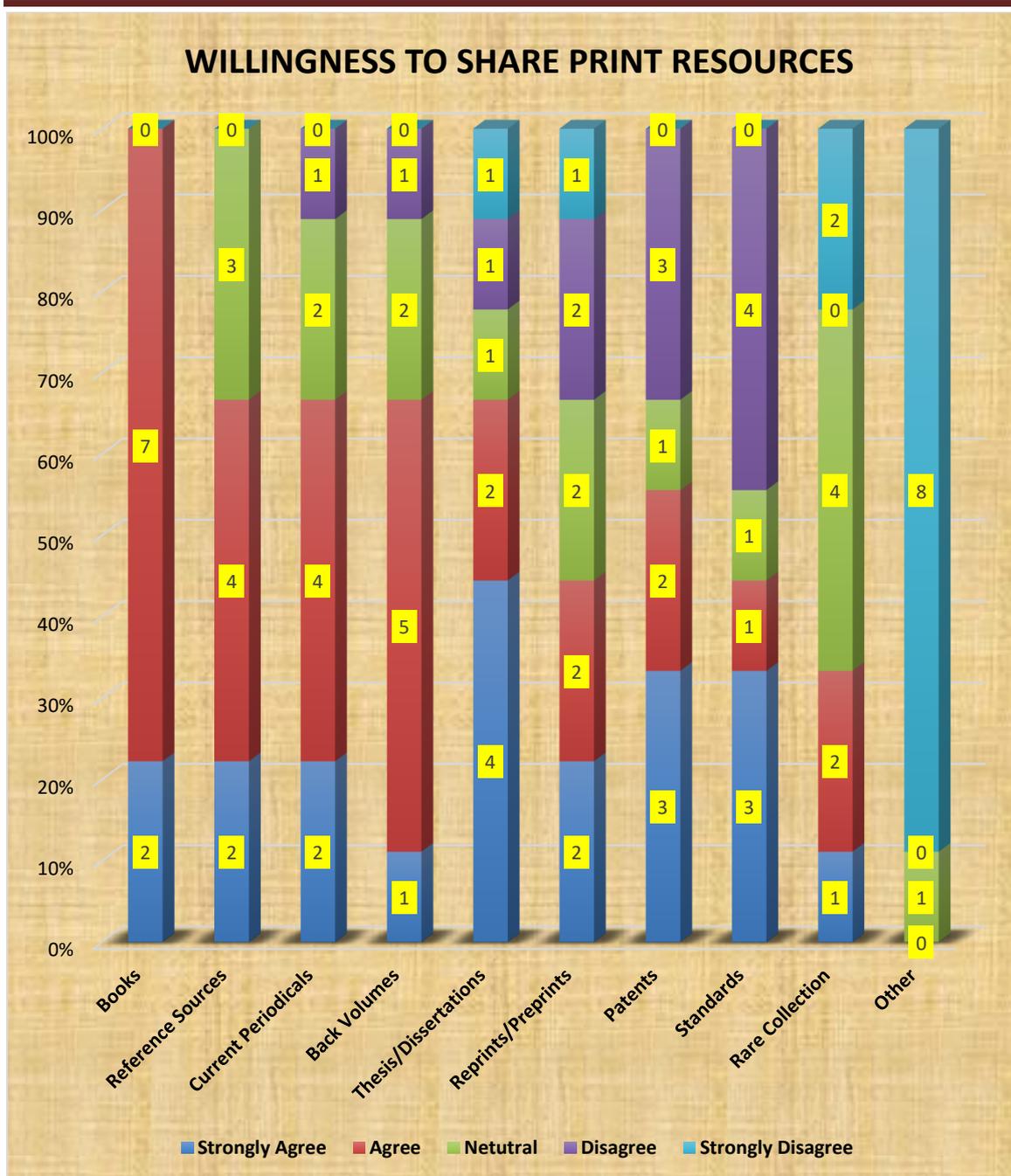| Sr.No	Description	Yes	No
1	Resource sharing models are adequate for university Libraries	9 (100)	0 (0.0)
2	Resource sharing and Network activity in increasing becoming important into next Generation University Libraries	9 (100)	0 (0.0)
3	Would you like to share you Resources under Networking Programme	9 (100)	0 (0.0)

Table No. 5.1 presents the views of university libraries on resource sharing and networking programs. All nine libraries (100%) agree with the statements provided. They believe the current resource-sharing models are sufficient, indicating satisfaction with existing systems. Additionally, all libraries acknowledge the growing importance of resource sharing and networking in the future of university libraries. Finally, all libraries express their willingness to participate in resource-sharing programs, highlighting their commitment to collaboration for better resource access and availability.

Table No. 5.2 Willingness to Share Print Resources

Sr. No	Print Resources	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1	Books	2 (22.2)	7 (77.8)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
2	Reference Sources	2 (22.2)	4 (44.4)	3 (33.3)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
3	Current Periodicals	2 (22.2)	4 (44.4)	2 (22.2)	1 (11.1)	0 (0.0)
4	Back Volumes	1 (11.1)	5 (55.6)	2 (22.2)	1 (11.1)	0 (0.0)
5	Thesis/Dissertations	4 (44.4)	2 (22.2)	1 (11.1)	1 (11.1)	1 (11.1)
6	Reprints/Preprints	2 (22.2)	2 (22.2)	2 (22.2)	2 (22.2)	1 (11.1)
7	Patents	3 (33.3)	2 (22.2)	1 (11.1)	3 (33.3)	0 (0.0)
8	Standards	3 (33.3)	1 (11.1)	1 (11.1)	4 (44.4)	0 (0.0)
9	Rare Collection	1 (11.1)	2 (22.2)	4 (44.4)	0 (0.0)	2 (22.2)

Table No. 5.2 & Fig. No. 1 illustrate university libraries' willingness to share various print resources. Overall, there is a general openness to sharing print materials. A majority of libraries (77.8%) strongly agree or agree to share books, with a lower but still significant percentage (44.4%) agreeing to share reference sources and current periodicals.

For back volumes, theses/dissertations, reprints, patents, and standards, responses are more varied, with some libraries showing neutral or disagreeing views, though many still express willingness to share back volumes and theses/dissertations. Regarding rare collections, responses are more equally distributed across different levels of agreement, suggesting complexities in sharing these materials.

Fig. No. 1 Willingness to Share Print Resource

Table No. 5.3 Willingness to Share E-Resources

Sr. No	E-Resources	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1	E-Books	3 (33.3)	3 (33.3)	2 (22.2)	0 (0.0)	1 (11.1)
2	E-Journals	4 (44.4)	3 (33.3)	1 (11.1)	0 (0.0)	1 (11.1)
3	E-Theses/Dissertations	3 (33.3)	3 (33.3)	1 (11.1)	0 (0.0)	2 (22.2)
4	CD's/DVD's ROM	3 (33.3)	3 (33.3)	1 (11.1)	1 (11.1)	1 (11.1)
5	E-Full Text Databases	5 (55.6)	2 (22.2)	1 (11.1)	0 (0.0)	1 (11.1)

Volume - 5 (2025)
Issue - 1 (December)

LIBRARY SCHOLAR
International Peer-Reviewed Journal of Library Science

ISSN
2583-2549

6	E-Bibliographical Databases	3 (33.3)	4 (44.4)	1 (11.1)	0 (0.0)	1 (11.1)
7	E-Learning Services	3 (33.3)	2 (22.2)	1 (11.1)	1 (11.1)	2 (22.2)
8	Institutional Repositories	5 (55.6)	2 (22.2)	1 (11.1)	0 (0.0)	1 (11.1)
9	E-Project Reports	4 (44.4)	2 (22.2)	2 (22.2)	0 (0.0)	1 (11.1)

Table No. 5.3 presents the willingness of university libraries to share various e-resources. Overall, there is a positive attitude towards sharing e-resources. For e-books, responses are balanced, with 33.3% strongly agreeing and 33.3% agreeing, indicating a general willingness to share, though some libraries remain undecided.

E-journals show strong support, with 44.4% strongly agreeing and 33.3% agreeing to share. Other e-resources, such as e-theses, CD/DVDs, databases, and institutional repositories, receive a mix of agreement and neutrality, suggesting a generally favorable but varied approach to sharing these materials. The willingness to share e-learning services is more diverse, with varying levels of agreement and disagreement.

In conclusion, the data shows a broad willingness among libraries to share e-resources, particularly e-books, e-journals, and institutional repositories. However, further discussions and clear policies are needed to standardize sharing practices for other e-resource categories.
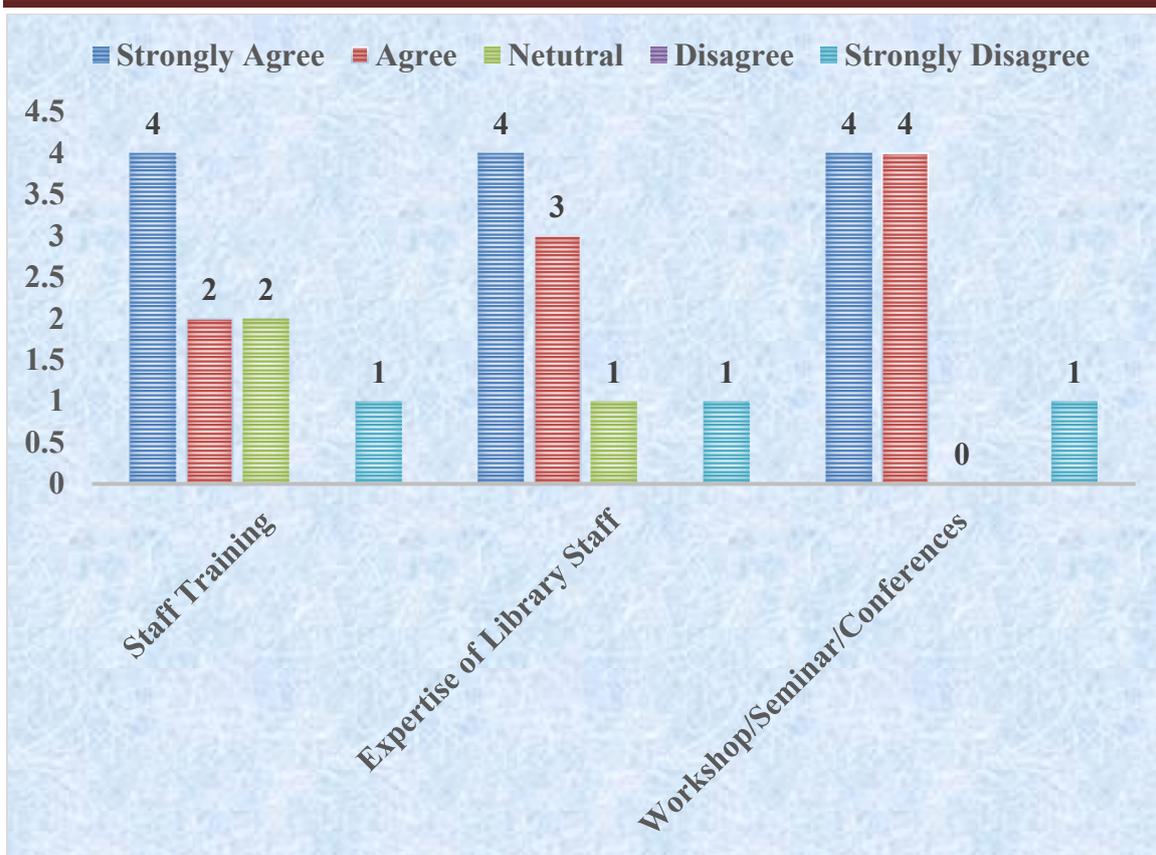
Table No. 5.4 Willingness to Share Academic Activity

Sr. No	Academic Activity	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1	Staff Training	4 (44.4)	2 (22.2)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (11.1)
2	Expertise of Library Staff	4 (44.4)	3 (33.3)	1 (11.1)	0 (0.0)	1 (11.1)
3	Workshop/Seminar/ Conferences	4 (44.4)	4 (44.4)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (11.1)

Table No. 5.4 and fig.no.2 shows the willingness of university libraries to share various academic activities. Overall, there is a positive inclination towards sharing.

For staff training, 44.4% strongly agree and 22.2% agree, indicating significant support for collaboration in staff development. Regarding the sharing of library staff expertise, 44.4% strongly agree and 33.3% agree, demonstrating a strong willingness to exchange knowledge.

Libraries express strong support for sharing workshops, seminars, and conferences, with 44.4% strongly agreeing and 44.4% agreeing, highlighting a commitment to participating in professional events.
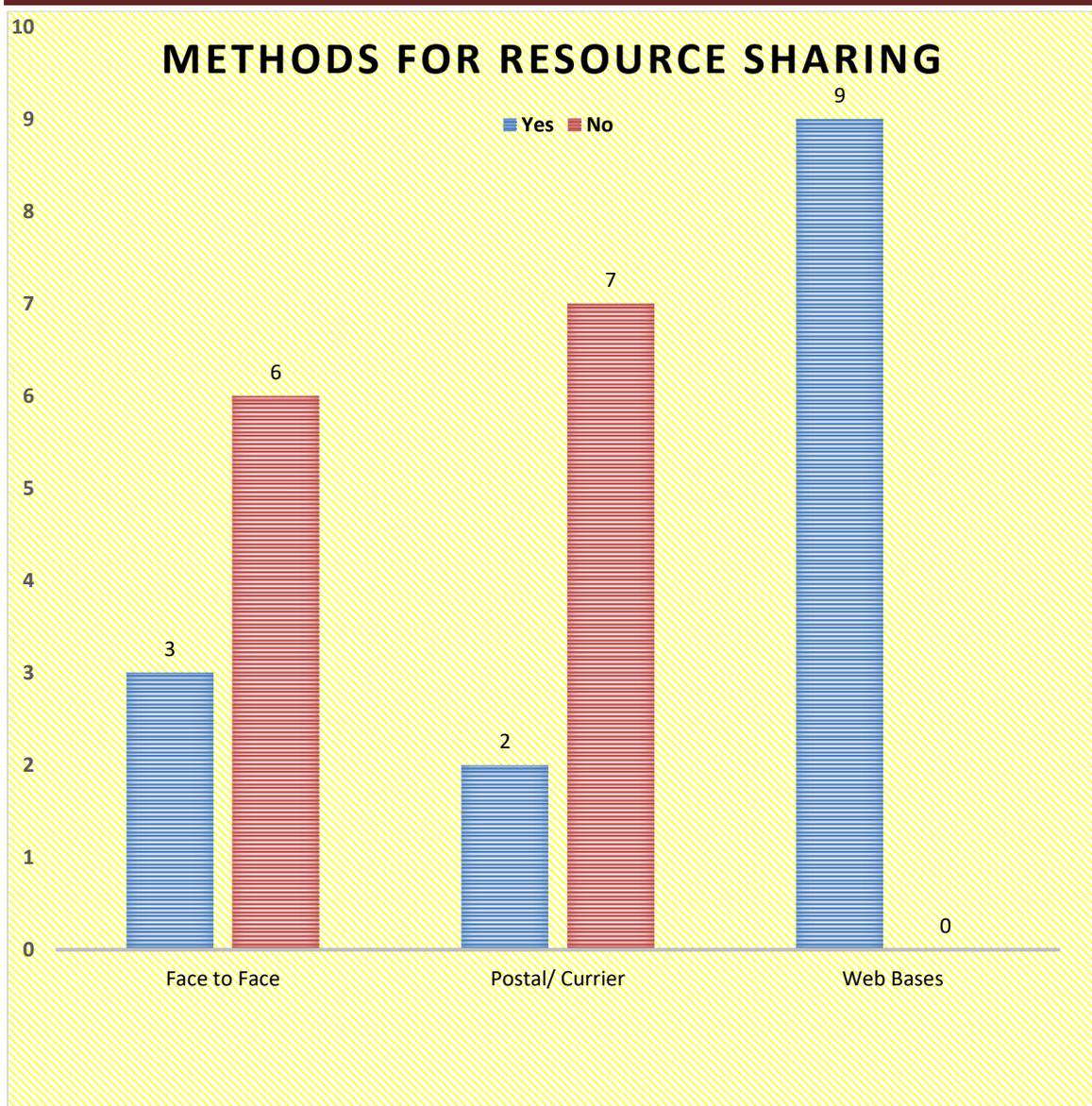
Fig. No. 2. Willingness to Share Academic Activity

Table No. 5. 5 Methods for Resource Sharing

Sr.No	Methods for Resource Sharing	Yes	No
1	Face to Face	3 (33.3)	6 (66.7)
2	Postal/ Currier	2 (22.2)	7 (77.8)
3	Web Bases	9 (100.0)	0 (0.0)

Table No. 5.5 and Graph 3. Show the methods for resource sharing among university libraries. Face-to-face interactions received limited support, with only 33.3% agreeing, while 66.7% disagreed, suggesting that this method is less favoured due to logistical challenges. Postal or courier services also saw low agreement, with 22.2% supporting it and 77.8% opposed, indicating a preference for more efficient alternatives.

In contrast, web-based methods received unanimous agreement (100%), reflecting a strong preference for digital platforms for resource sharing, which are viewed as convenient, fast, and accessible.

Fig. No. 3 Methods for Resource Sharing

Conclusion :

In conclusion, the study highlights the positive attitude of university librarians towards networking and resource sharing. Most librarians are open to sharing both print and electronic resources, as well as engaging in collaborative academic activities. The preference for web-based tools such as email, fax, and other digital platforms reflects a growing trend towards adopting more efficient, technology-driven methods for resource sharing. This shift indicates a move towards modernizing library practices and improving collaboration within academic networks.

References :

- Ramavath & Rao. (2022) Networking and Resource Sharing of Medical College

Libraries in Telangana: A Study. Journal of Advances in Library and Information Science ISSN: 2277-2219 Vol. 11. No.2. 2022. pp.211-217.

- Chaithra & Adhinarayanan (2018) Resource Sharing in the University Libraries of Karnataka State: A Study. Indian Journal of Information Sources and Services ISSN: 2231-6094 Vol.8 No.2, 2018, pp. 108-112.

- Kumbhar, A. (2018) Resource Sharing and Networking in Libraries. International Journal of Trend in Scientific Research and Development (IJTSRD). ISSN No: 2456-6470.

- Kalbande, Dattatraya T. (2018) Resource Sharing and Networking in Agricultural College Libraries Under Jurisdiction of Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth: A Study. International Research: Journal of Library & Information Science. Vol.8 No.1, Pp. 100-113.

- Hanumanth Reddy A. (2016) Resource sharing and networking of libraries: an overview. International Journal of Library and Information Studies. Vol. 6(3). ISSN: 2231-4911. Pp. 166- 171.

- Das, Manas (2018) RESOURCE SHARING AND NETWORKING IN LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES: A BRIEF STUDY. Journal of Emerging Technologies and Innovative Research (JETIR). Volume 5, Issue 7, ISSN-2349-5162 Pp. 696-710.